

0661
1990

PUERTO RICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 10, 1990

MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund was held on Wednesday, October 10, 1990, at the offices of the Fund.

PRESENT

Mari Carmen Aponte, Esq.
Anna Carbonell
Ernest Collazo, Esq.
Fr. Joseph Fitzpatrick
Grace Ibañez Friedman, Esq.
David Jones
Harold Lewis, Esq.
Benito Romano, Esq.
Alba Rovira Paoli, Esq.
Isaura Santiago Santiago
Martin Zuckerman, Esq.

Nathan Quiñones

STAFF

Rubén Franco - President and General Counsel
Rafael Gómez - Fiscal Director
Yocelyn Tarazona-Cornelio - Administrative Assistant

A quorum having been established, Ernest Collazo, called the meeting to order.

I. APPROVAL OF APRIL 20, 1990 MINUTES

A motion was made, duly seconded, and carried unanimously, adopting the minutes.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. LITIGATION

No report was submitted by the Litigation Committee.

B. DEVELOPMENT

Elizabeth presented an update on the banquet to be held on October 11, 1990.

Ernest Collazo commented that a lot of effort had gone into this year's event, and that this is the first year that we are doing it on our own, without outside consultants. Elizabeth mentioned that the Fund was able to save approximately \$20,000 on consultant fees.

C. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

William Callejo was unable to attend the meeting and Yvette Bravo-Weber, the Education Director is on maternity leave. But she issued a Status Report on the Education Division to Rubén, and a copy was distributed to all Board members.

Rubén commented that Yvette Bravo-Weber has been doing an excellent job as Director of Education. She is also going to work on education rights litigation, which is a special interest of hers. She has also been working on the development of some of the special projects that the Board had requested, such as the leadership program and the video program.

An agenda was distributed to Board members for the Education Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 1990.

Rubén also reported that a Law Day had been scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 1990, at Baruch College. This is an orientation for students interested in attending law school. It will be an all-day affair.

D. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Alba reported on the investment policy which was developed by the Finance Committee for the management of the stabilization grant received from the Rockefeller Foundation. The investment policy was discussed by the Executive Committee at a meeting which had

taken place earlier in the day. A copy of the investment policy was distributed to the Board members for their consideration.

David Jones requested clarification on the South Africa policy. Alba indicated that this will be considered when investing, and that corporations that have dealings with South Africa will not be on the approved list.

Alba suggested that a professional money manager be retained.

There was discussion, after which the Board approved adoption of the investment policy. The hiring of a professional money manager was also approved.

Alba reported that we have been operating without a budget due to the change in Fiscal Directors and also the change in auditors. She proposed, per the suggestion of the Executive Committee, a resolution to continue to spend at current levels until mid-November, and then the Executive Committee would extend on a month-to-month basis, if needed and if sufficient funds exist; and, that expenditures incurred be approved retroactive to 7/1/90.

The members of the Board approved the resolution.

Rubén introduced Rafael Gómez who addressed some budget matters.

A cash flow report was also distributed to the Board members for their review.

III. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT/GENERAL COUNSEL

A. PILC

Rubén discussed the purchase of our space. The closing should take place within the next month or so. The delay has been due to failure of the landlord's attorneys to obtain the appropriate government approvals. These matters have been recently taken care of.

B. LITIGATION UPDATE

A written litigation update was distributed to Board members for their review.

Rubén discussed the Rafael Rivera Garcia case, which resulted in acquittal of eight of the nine charges. He was convicted on possession of a gun and he goes for sentencing on November 2nd. It is expected, hoped, that Professor Rivera Garcia will not be sentenced to a term of incarceration. The aim is for probation and/or community service.

On the Rivera Garcia case, Rubén also mentioned that one of the

things being considered is to approach the City Council and request public hearings on similar complaints made by other people throughout the city. That is, complaints made to city agencies which are within their jurisdiction to resolve, and yet they have neglected to do so.

Isaura Santiago indicated how proud she is that the Fund broke with tradition and took this criminal case, which has had great implications for our community and which helped to substantially strengthen our reputation in legal circles as well as in our community.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Anna suggested having corporate sponsors host a gathering once or twice a year, similar to the gathering held to introduce Ernest Collazo as the new Board Chair. The idea would be "Thank you for your sponsorship", and to give the funders some idea as to how their contributions are being put to use. Anna also suggested that a plan for our 20th Anniversary celebration in 1993 be put in place.

Ernie appointed Anna and Martin Zuckerman as co-chairs of the committee to handle the 20th Anniversary celebration.

Having no further business to discuss, the Board adjourned.

PUERTO RICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 20, 1990

MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund was held on Friday, April 20, 1990, at the offices of the Fund.

PRESENT

Luis Alvarez
Mari Carmen Aponte, Esq.
Dorothy Buckton James
William F. Callejo, Esq.
Anna Carbonell
Ernest Collazo, Esq.
Fr. Joseph Fitzpatrick
Miguel A. Garcia, Jr.
Amy Gladstein, Esq.
Andrés Gómez Vázquez
Grace Ibañez Friedman, Esq.
Harold Lewis, Esq.
René Ramirez, Esq.
Benito Romano, Esq.
José Santos Reynoso
Sonia Sotomayor, Esq.
Salvador Tió, Esq.
Martin Zuckerman, Esq.

STAFF

Rubén Franco - President and General Counsel
Lydia Sanchez - Fiscal Director
Yocelyn Tarazona-Cornelio - Administrative Assistant

A quorum having been established at approximately 5:40 P.M., in the absence of Ernest Collazo, Luis Alvarez, called the meeting to order.

I. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19, 1990 MINUTES

A motion was made, duly seconded, and carried unanimously, adopting the minutes.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. LITIGATION - Salvador Tió

Salvador Tió reported on the activities of the Litigation Committee's sub-committees. He stated that the Policy Development Sub-Committee has had at least three meetings by conference calls and that Benito Romano, the deputy chair of the Litigation Committee, has been coordinating these meetings.

During the meeting of the Policy Development Sub-Committee, held on April 20, 1990, the committee requested that the staff share with committee members any materials which have been compiled on litigation/advocacy priorities established by the staff. In the housing area, some possible strategies were discussed, including legislative and administrative advocacy. There are issues that relate to IRS and other limitations that must be studied before any serious legislative activity can be undertaken.

Another matter discussed during these meetings was the feasibility of establishing a project in the housing area, staffed by professionals, which would develop economic development initiatives, including one for low-and moderate-income housing.

Benito Romano reported on the project that Hal Lewis has developed with the staff to resolve disputes. This would be another attempt on our part to pursue non-litigation strategies. The project entails referring people to a mediation clinic that Hal conducts at Fordham University Law School.

Sonia Sotomayor reported on the activities of the Network Building Sub-Committee. They are in the process of compiling lists of possible cooperating attorneys, clinic programs, and private law firms. Once they have completed this task, they would solicit from the other two sub-committees ideas to determine what sort of projects they might be able to involve the people in.

B. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Miguel A. Garcia, Jr.

Miguel introduced the new member of the Development staff, Myrna Martinez.

Miguel reported that there has been a big increase in support to the Fund from previous years. Over the next year the Fund will look to become certified in each state's combined campaign in order to be able to solicit funds from employees of those states.

Miguel also stated that we will explore the possibility of a direct mail campaign and that Elizabeth will be meeting with several software company representatives in order to purchase a good development software package.

Miguel also reported on the efforts being made on this year's Annual Banquet. The Committee is seeking honorees and corporate sponsors, and Miguel requested suggestions from Board members.

Rubén reported that there are only two of the five organizations left in the PILC capital campaign. The others have obtained the money they needed. The two organizations still in the campaign are the N.O.W. Legal defense Fund and the Fund; \$223,000 is the total amount needed. It looks almost certain that the Ford Foundation is going to provide a grant for the entire balance.

Rubén pointed out that \$12,000 was committed by the Board towards the PILC Campaign but that only \$7,000 has been contributed. He indicated that if the Board does not provide the balance, it will have to be taken out of the organization's operating funds.

Luis Alvarez suggested that corporations in Puerto Rico be approached for contributions, as well as corporations in California.

C. EDUCATION COMMITTEE - William F. Callejo

William Callejo reviewed the minutes of the Education Committee meeting of January 20, 1990, and he discussed the agenda for the meeting scheduled for April 21, 1990. He distributed copies of the agenda. Some of the items to be discussed include: the 1990 census, budget, funding, voter registration, and leadership development.

Rubén reported that Yvette Bravo-Weber has been hired as the Director of the Education Division, after a very exhaustive search. She will start the first week in May, 1990.

D. FINANCE COMMITTEE - Martin Zuckerman

Martin Zuckerman reported that the funds from the Rockefeller Foundation Stabilization Grant have been deposited in CD accounts. He stated that \$100,000 of that money will be used for operating expenses for this year.

Martin also mentioned that we are evaluating the performance of our current auditors and that we may be interviewing other auditors.

Martin stated that the Fund is in very good financial condition at this point.

E. VIDEO PROJECT - Anna Carbonnel

A written report was submitted to the Board and Anna made an oral presentation. A Project Director must be hired for this project; a planning session should be scheduled with people from around the country - 3 meetings were suggested: one in the West Coast, one in the East Coast, and one in the Midwest. Anna also recommended that there be an advisory board.

There was a discussion about funding for the project. Ernest Collazo mentioned that a budget should be prepared by Rubén and his staff, and that Rubén should designate who is going to be primarily responsible for the project, at the staff level.

Anna mentioned that we must first determine if the project is going to be carried out at all, and if it is, the consultant/producer has to be hired. Anna suggested Lourdes Santiago, who is a public-relations person at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Ms. Santiago has indicated that she is willing to discuss the project with Board members.

It was moved and seconded that \$5,000-\$10,000 from our budget, if such funds are available, be used to start this project. Rubén, subject to consultation with the Executive Committee, is to supervise this expenditure. The motion carried.

III. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT/GENERAL COUNSEL

A written report was distributed to all Board members. Its contents were discussed at various points during the course of the meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Having finished its regular business, the Board adjourned and went into executive session.

PUERTO RICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 19, 1990

MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund was held on Friday, January 19, 1990, at the offices of the Fund.

PRESENT

Luis Alvarez
Mari Carmen Aponte, Esq.
Dorothy Buckton James
William F. Callejo, Esq.
Anna Carbonell
Ernest Collazo, Esq.
Ricardo Fernández
Fr. Joseph Fitzpatrick
Miguel A. Garcia, Jr.
Angelo Giordani
Amy Gladstein, Esq.
Andrés Gómez Vazquez
Grace Ibañez Friedman, Esq.
David Jones, Esq.
Victor Marrero, Esq.
René Ramirez, Esq.
José Santos Reynoso
Benito Romano, Esq.
Alba Rovira-Paoli, Esq.
Sonia Sotomayor, Esq.
Salvador Tió, Esq.

ABSENT

Isaura Santiago
Martin Zuckerman, Esq.

STAFF

Ruben Franco - President and General Counsel
Lydia Sanchez - Fiscal Director
Yocelyn Tarazona-Cornelio - Administrative Assistant

A quorum having been established at approximately 4:40 P.M., in the absence of Luis Alvarez, Ernest Collazo, the Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order.

The staff of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., introduced themselves to the Board.

I. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 23, 1989 MINUTES

William Callejo pointed out that in the section which refers to the Education Committee, Section D, the 2nd paragraph should be amended as follows: "The mission statements and the 1990 goals were presented to the Board, and it was moved and seconded, unanimously adopted by the Board. . . .", not that "it was agreed that we pursue these new initiatives . . .", as is currently stated in the minutes.

Rubén Franco indicated that the section on the last page, referring to the Executive Session of the Board of Directors, should be deleted.

With the corrections noted, a motion was made, duly seconded, and carried unanimously, adopting the minutes.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

At this point, the Chairman, Luis Alvarez, was present, and Ernest Collazo turned the meeting over to him.

Luis Alvarez made a statement about the progress of the Fund during his tenure as Chair. He stated that his objective had been to bring about greater financial stability and the appropriate leadership changes. That has been accomplished, he feels.

A. Nominations - Ernest Collazo, Esq.

A.I. Election of Officers and Re-Election of Members

Luis Alvarez presented to the Board the slate of candidates:

Ernest Collazo - as Chairman
Alba Rovira-Paoli - as 1st Vice-Chair
Miguel A. Garcia, Jr. - as 2nd Vice-Chair
Martin Zuckerman - as Treasurer
Anna Carbonell - as Secretary

The nominations were moved, seconded and unanimously carried.

Ernest Collazo, on behalf of the organization, thanked Luis Alvarez

for the sound judgment and wise leadership that he provided to the organization, during his five years as Chair.

Ernest discussed new projects. He set forth some thoughts as to where the organization ought to be heading.

He then appointed deputy chairs to the Board committees, as follows:

Benito Romano - Litigation Committee
Dorothy Buckton-James - Education Committee
José Santos Reynoso - Development Committee

He established a Finance Committee, to which he appointed Alba J. Rovira-Paoli, as chair.

In addition to Alba Rovira-Paoli as Chair of the Finance Committee, the committee will also consist of Martin Zuckerman, Miguel Garcia and José Reynoso. The committee will serve to provide advise and counsel on issues of finances, as well as dealing with the investment of the stabilization grant funds recently received from the Rockefeller Foundation, as well as other grants that we expect to receive in the future.

Ernest nominated Salvador Tió and Mari Carmen Aponte as members-at-large of the Executive Committee of the Board.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The Nominations Committee also recommended the re-election of Luis Alvarez, William Callejo, Angelo Giordani, Andrés Gómez Vazquez, René Ramirez and Sonia Sotomayor, to the Board.

The nominations were unanimously accepted.

A.II. New Members

Sonia Sotomayor made a presentation on behalf of Prof. Harold S. Lewis, Jr., for membership to the Board of Directors. She spoke about his background and qualifications.

A motion was made, duly seconded and unanimously carried, electing Prof. Lewis as a member of the Board.

A.III. Honorary Members

The new Secretary of the Board, Anna Carbonell, read a resolution on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Board, to elect Nathan Quiñones, former Chancellor of the New York City Board of Education, as Honorary Director of the Board.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

Fr. Fitzpatrick mentioned that in previous years, the Honorary Board members would attend the Board meetings, and in recent years that was not happening. He suggested that this practice be revived.

Ernest stated that he had already discussed the matter with Rubén, and that beginning with the next Board meeting, the Honorary Directors would be invited to the Board Meetings. Rubén pointed out that according to the by-laws, unless they're amended, there are no longer any Honorary Directors of the Board, because the by-laws stipulate that the Directors are to be re-elected annually. Unless they are re-elected they are no longer Honorary Directors. Since the prior ones were not re-elected, Nathan Quiñones is the only Honorary Director of the Board.

Sonia Sotomayor indicated that the Nominations Committee is always searching for new people, and she urged all Board members to pass along any suggestions to Ernie.

Ernest Collazo stated that the new Nominations Committee will be headed by Luis Alvarez. Victor Marrero will be a member of the committee as well as he.

B. LITIGATION - Salvador Tió

Salvador Tió reported on the Litigation Committee meeting which was held on 1/19/90 at the Fund.

Salvador stated that the role of the Litigation Committee should not be simply to react to policy issues that arise, which may present questions as to whether the action being undertaken by the staff is or is not within the policies set forth by the Board. The committee should be trying to enunciate policy statements that would help design new strategies within existing areas that could be undertaken by the staff, as well as to view new problems that the community confronts, and discuss the role the Fund should play relative to those issues, for the next 2, 5, or 10 years.

Salvador stated that after much discussion during the Litigation Committee meeting, it became clear that sub-committees were needed, and the following sub-committees were established:

1. Public Advocacy Issues Sub-Committee

Mari Carmen Aponte
David Jones
Anna Carbonell
Ken Kimerling - staff liaison

2. Network Building Sub-Committee

Benito Romano
Ernest Collazo
Alba Rovira-Paoli
Sonia Sotomayor
Arthur Baer - staff liaison

3. Policy Development Sub-Committee

Salvador Tió
Rubén Franco
Amy Gladstein
Benito Romano
Celina Romani (as guest-member)
Jenny Rivera and Richard Rivera - staff liaisons

It was decided that the first conference call meeting of sub-committees will be held on 2/9/90. Benito Romano is the person designated to arrange the conference calls for these meetings.

Written reports will be presented of work which has been done and is being done by these sub-committees.

Salvador Tió added that the Litigation Committee spent a significant amount of time on the need to address women's issues.

Luis Alvarez mentioned that during the last Board meeting it had been discussed at length that the Fund was to move beyond litigation; to look at advocacy as a way of addressing some issues, and questioned whether the Litigation Committee had pursued this.

Salvador Tió stated that one of the sub-committees had been designated specifically to review the process which the Fund engages when doing public advocacy.

C. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Miguel A. Garcia, Jr.

Miguel stated that development should be looked at in a more systematic way and that the Fund needs to build capacity; that even though the Fund can now work in a more sustained, competent manner, more work needs to be done with respect to development. He feels that we ought to pursue Latino attorneys for contributions. Most of the Latino attorneys that come out of the tri-state region have been serviced, in some way, by the Fund.

He mentioned the outstanding job Elizabeth Dickenson, the Director of Development has been doing. He feels that 1989 was a very good year for us.

Miguel further stated that work has begun on the Annual Banquet to

be held next Fall, and that by April, 1990, Rubén and Elizabeth should have the corporate honorees, the date and the place for the event.

The Price Waterhouse Report was mentioned, and it was suggested that all Board members should receive a copy.

Ernest Collazo mentioned that perhaps we should consider a fund raising event in Puerto Rico or California. He asked Miguel to speak to two of the Development Committee members, René Ramirez and Andrés Gómez Vázquez, to pursue it further.

Luis Alvarez spoke about PILC and the Board members' pledge to contribute \$12,000. Only about one-half of the amount pledged has been donated by the members.

Elizabeth Dickenson stated that the 1989 Annual Banquet was very successful. The net will be close to \$70,000 and the goal was \$50,000.

D. EDUCATION COMMITTEE - William F. Callejo

William Callejo indicated that the Education Committee was scheduled to meet on Saturday, January 20, 1990, at the offices of the Fund. He distributed to each Board member a copy of the agenda for the meeting, and discussed some of the items, which included budget, funding, the 1990 census, voter registration and leadership development.

E. FINANCE COMMITTEE - Martin Zuckerman

In the absence of Martin Zuckerman, Lydia Sanchez, the Fund's Fiscal Director, presented the financial report which all members had previously received. Ernest Collazo indicated his concern regarding the outstanding receivables from the 1989 Annual Banquet. He urged that those individuals and organizations be contacted and urged to pay.

III. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL

An extensive written report was previously submitted to each Board member. Rubén summarized his report and he was complimented by several Board members for this year's President's Report. It was stated that it is, perhaps, one of the best reports submitted to the Board.

A Question was raised about the closing date for the purchase of the premises. Victor Marrero, who has been extremely active in the campaign, stated that it must occur no later than January, 1991.

Rubén indicated that the Fund is approximately \$81,000 short of the

total amount needed for the purchase of the premises. That figure does not include a recent contribution of \$5,000 from Exxon, which they gave to the PRLDEF separate and apart from PILC. Rubén pointed out that originally there was a stipulation in the Rockefeller Stabilization Grant which allowed for some of that money to be used towards the purchase of the premises. However, it was recently learned that the Foundation will not permit any of this money to be used directly for that purpose. Rubén mentioned that all of the funds coming into the campaign are now being divided only 2 ways -for the NOW Legal Defense Fund and for the Fund.

Rubén continued his report by highlighting the administrative and personnel changes that he has made since September, 1988. He added that at least 3 additional people have to be hired; one would be a Director of Education and the other would be an Assistant to the Development Director. A Policy Analyst will also be added to the staff of the Fund.

NEW BUSINESS - Ernest Collazo

A. Ernest Collazo raised the idea of the Fund producing a 30-40 minute video to be shown in NYC public schools directed to the junior high school students. The purpose would be to have Latino professionals, or Latinos in specific jobs, talk about their jobs. It would be narrated maybe by someone like José Ferrer. The concept would be to impart to the students all of the pertinent information regarding that particular career or job. The title could be, for example, "Why not You"? Anna Carbonell would chair the committee, with Grace Ibañez Friedman, and David Jones to be committee members also. Nathan Quiñones would also be asked to participate in the committee.

There was much discussion about the proposed project. Ernest would like for it to be completed by the end of 1990, or the beginning of 1991.

Ernest indicated that Mr. Quiñones believes the Board of Education will be extremely receptive to it.

Luis Alvarez wondered whether we should discuss this project with ASPIRA. Ernest said that this point needs to be considered further.

Salvador Tió pointed out that perhaps some corporation may want to associate themselves with the project. Anna Carbonell mentioned that Channel 13 may want to underwrite this project.

Sonia Sotomayor indicated that this endeavor is not in the tradition of the Fund -- that issues need to be considered.

Ernest said that the committee should discuss all pertinent

matters.

B. Anna Carbonnell indicated that she has approached Andrew Jackson, of Capital Cities, ABC Foundation, about the possibility of ABC sponsoring a reception to introduce our new Chairman, Ernest Collazo, and they have agreed. A date in early March has been projected.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.